

REMARKS

This application has been further carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2008. Claims 15 to 17, each of which are independent, remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 15 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0044672 (Spencer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention relates to sharing of a new object generated by one client with other clients on a network. In the invention, a management server issues a unique client identifier for each client, where the client identifier is represented as an integer. When a client makes a connection request to the server, the server transmits a response that includes the unique client identifier issued by the server, whereby the client stores the identifier internally. Then, when the client generates a new object to be shared, the client generates object identification information for the object. In this regard, the client generates the object identification information, which is represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing the unique client identifier and including the integer representing the unique client identifier and information uniquely generated by the client. The client then transmits the generated object identification information, along with information necessary for causing another client to generate the new object, to the server. The server then transmits this information on to other clients, whereby each client receiving this information can generate the new object in a three-dimensional virtual space.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 15 is directed to an information processing method for sharing, via a management server, an object in a three-dimensional virtual space between a plurality of client apparatuses, the method comprising a receiving step of the management server receiving a connection request from one of the plurality of client apparatuses, an issuing step of the management server issuing, in response to receiving the connection request from the client apparatus, a unique client identifier that identifies the respective client apparatus that transmitted the connection request, wherein the issuing step issues a different unique client identifier for each of the plurality of client apparatuses, the unique client identifier being represented as an integer, a transmitting step of the management server transmitting, to the respective client apparatus that transmitted the connection request, the unique client identifier corresponding to the respective client apparatus, the client apparatus storing in a storage unit thereof the unique client identifier transmitted by the management server, a generating step of the client apparatus generating a new object, an identification information generating step of, when the new object is generated, the client apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object, the object identification information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing the unique client identifier and including the integer representing the unique client identifier and information uniquely generated by the client apparatus, a transmitting step of the client apparatus transmitting, the generated object identification information and information necessary for causing another client to generate the object to the management server, the management server transmitting the object identification information and the information necessary for causing another client to generate the object

to other client apparatuses among the plurality of client apparatuses, and a generating step of each of the other client apparatuses generating the new object in a three-dimensional virtual space based on the object identification information and the information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the object transmitted by the management server.

Claim 16 is directed to the client apparatus that generates the new object of method Claim 15, while Claim 17 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 16.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of, i) when a client apparatus generates a new object, the client apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object, the object identification information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing a unique client identifier, and including the unique client identifier, which is issued by a management server as a response to a connection request, and information uniquely generated by the client apparatus, and ii) transmitting the generated object identification information and information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the new object to the management server, wherein the management server transmits the object identification information and the information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the new object to other client apparatuses, and wherein each of the other client apparatuses generates the new object in a three-dimensional virtual space based on the object identification information and the

information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the object transmitted by the management server.

Spencer is merely seen to disclose a system that allows linking of CAD (Computer Aided Design) elements with non-graphical elements in a database. In the system of Spencer, GUID (Globally Unique Identification) numbers are used to identify objects. However, Spencer is not seen to teach that object identification information is information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing a unique client identifier, and including the unique client identifier, which is issued by a management server as a response to a connection request, and information uniquely generated by the client apparatus. More particularly, Spencer is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of, i) when a client apparatus generates a new object, the client apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object, the object identification information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing a unique client identifier, and including the unique client identifier, which is issued by a management server as a response to a connection request, and information uniquely generated by the client apparatus, and ii) transmitting the generated object identification information and information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the new object to the management server, wherein the management server transmits the object identification information and the information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the new object to other client apparatuses, and wherein each of the other client apparatuses generates the new object in a three-dimensional virtual space based

on the object identification information and the information necessary for causing another client apparatus to generate the object transmitted by the management server.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 15 to 17 are not believed to be anticipated by Spencer and rather, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCHS_WS 2737950v1